

Message

From: McCabe, Janet [McCabe.Janet@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/14/2016 11:27:33 AM
To: McGrath, Shaun [McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov]; Thomas, Deb [thomas.debrah@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Powertech ISR Project

Thanks Shaun. I will let my radiation team know as well.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 10, 2016, at 5:36 PM, McGrath, Shaun <McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov> wrote:

All,
I've scheduled a meeting on the 18th with the Administrator to discuss the project described below. R8 staff have been working with your staff, but I wanted to make you aware. We will be providing a briefing paper early next week in advance of the call. If you have questions, please contact Deb, as I will be on travel out of the country (although available by email).

Shaun

Before the end of November, Region 8 anticipates issuing draft UIC permits and an aquifer exemption decision to Powertech USA, Inc. for a proposed uranium in-situ recovery (ISR) project northwest of Edgemont, South Dakota. These UIC permits will be the first EPA has directly issued for uranium recovery nationwide, and include some requirements that will be new to the uranium ISR industry to ensure adequate protection of underground sources of drinking water (USDWs). The proposed project site is near the Black Hills, where at least 38 tribal nations have historic claims or consider this area to be sacred. The closest Indian Reservation (i.e., Pine Ridge) is 46 miles to the southeast of the project site. Through consultation over the past several months, several tribes have raised concerns about potential impacts on historic properties of cultural importance. Following issuance of the draft permits, we will provide interested tribes and other stakeholders specific information about how the UIC permits propose to protect USDWs at the site. There will be a 75 day public comment period (vs. the 30 day regulatory requirement), and four public outreach events (including hearings) in January near the site to allow ample opportunity for tribes and other stakeholders to provide comments. We will continue to encourage interested tribes to consult with us through the permitting process. Because of the tribal concerns raised and the proximity of this project to the Dakota Access Pipeline where some of the same Tribes are engaged (e.g., Standing Rock Sioux), we expect to receive many adverse comments and that a final decision to issue UIC permits would be appealed. Region 8's Office of Water Protection/UIC and Public Affairs programs are coordinating closely with OW, OGWDW, OITA, OAR (regarding their upcoming rule on in-situ uranium mining), OPA and OGC.

Sent from my iPad